



2020 Annual Conference: Rural Proud Nov. 15-17 | Brainerd, MN

Call for Proposals Due May 15

Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) seeks dynamic workshop and breakout session proposals for its 2020 Annual Conference to share best practices, solutions, and research on “Rural Proud.”

While MREA will host the conference to continue providing high-quality professional educator development, the conference may be transitioned to an online format to protect attendee health and safety and align with state and federal health guidelines at the time. All presenters must be willing and able to present their session virtually and/or submit a web link to their pre-recorded session.

Proposals should help maximize educator learning and knowledge, focused on developing and sharing rural proud narratives from a position of strength and vitality. Submissions are encouraged in all context and focus areas at all experience levels.

2020 Focus Areas

- Family and community engagement and communication in COVID-19
- Overcoming rural tech and Internet barriers in COVID-19
- Supporting student resiliency and mental health through in-school and distance learning
- Creating positive school climate and emotionally safe learning spaces during in-school and distance learning
- Engaging children and families from communities of color and American Indian cultures
- Partnerships that support rural school and community vitality
- Creating pathways to teaching in Greater Minnesota
- Topics that address mandatory requirements for MN teacher license renewal

Proposal Development

MREA members want to learn how rural colleagues are solving educational problems and addressing the conference focus areas. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate active involvement of Greater Minnesota educational professionals as presenters. Sessions may be accepted on the condition that a rural school representative will be co-presenter.

As you craft your proposal, consider a brief description of the presentation and its relevance to “Rural Proud,” leadership, learning, practices or policy in rural schools. Proposals must include:

- **Compelling Title** as it should appear in the conference promotion (5 words maximum). Avoid abbreviations and acronyms.
- **Session Description** clearly identifying:
 - Topic being addressed
 - Target audience among school administrators, teachers and school board members
 - Two outcomes
 - Participant engagement activities
 - Resources participants will receive
- **Contact Information** for primary presenter and co-presenter. Names and organizations must appear as you would like them included in event promotions.
- **Recent Groups** to whom and when this presentation was delivered

Breakout Session Guidelines

Sessions will generally host from 25 to 70 participants each, depending on the room size. Presenters will provide their own presentation devices, audio speakers and handouts.

Rank your preference for session length and day/time:

- **50-minute Breakout Sessions** These Monday morning sessions are intended to provide an overview into a specific innovative or promising practice.
- **75-minute Workshops** These Monday afternoon sessions are intended to go into more depth around innovative or promising practices.
- **90-minute Workshops** These Tuesday morning workshops should deliver content that dives deep into the topic and prompts participant dialogue and interaction.

Proposal Submission & Selection

Complete proposals must be submitted online by midnight Friday, May 15.

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by the Conference Committee. The proposal author will receive an e-mail notification regarding acceptance status by early June.

Conference Information

Here's what else you need to know about this premiere Greater Minnesota education conference.

Dates: Sunday-Tuesday, November 15-17

- Sunday: Greater Minnesota education awards and banquet
- Monday: Opening keynote speaker, breakout sessions, workshops, networking, legislative update and Gallery Walk vendor fair
- Tuesday: Workshops, networking, capstone speaker, annual membership meeting

Audience: 400+ Education Practitioners & Influencers

- School board members, K-12 teachers, and administrators
- Representing every corner of Minnesota
- Attendance has grown over 50% last three years

Venue: Cragun's Resort

- In the heart of Brainerd Lakes Area
- Comfortable spaces and technology
- Updated accommodations

Registration & Expenses

- Conference registration is required after your proposal has been accepted. Details will be sent.
- Up to two (2) presenters per presentation will receive free and/or discounted registration fees. Additional presenters beyond 2 will pay the full conference registration fee.
- Presenters attending only Monday receive free registration and breakfast or lunch.
- Travel and lodging coordination and expenses are not provided.

Questions?

Contact Diane Vosen, Administrative Coordinator at 320.762.6574 or diane@mreavoice.org.

Complete your proposal [online here](#).



Voice for Greater Minnesota Education

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